

Israeli Settlements: Their Social & Economic Consequences on Workers and Employers in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories: The Syrian Golan and South Lebanon

Report of ALO Director General Submitted to the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the ILC Geneva – June 2019



Arab Labor Organization

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# Introduction

In light of the incessant follow-up to the economic and social consequences of the Israeli occupation on the employers and workers in Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, we are pleased to present this annual report in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. This report shall be dispatched to production tripartite in all regions of the world and to representatives of international bodies participating in the 108<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labor Conference, (Geneva - June 2019). It aims at identifying the violations committed against the workers and peoples of the occupied Arab territories. We hope this important document will help raise the level of awareness and responsibility of all actors at the Arab, regional and international levels so that serious and rapid moves may be made to provide more support, improve the current situation, and enhance opportunities to put an end to the Israeli occupation and achieve security and stability in the region.

The latest report of the Palestinian Ministry of Labor on the "economic and social situation of employers and workers in the occupied territories" indicates that Palestinian development needs, their legitimate rights, and the pressing demands for security and stability, have witnessed no positive developments or glimmer of hope for the stability of the occupied areas. On the contrary, in addition to the increasing sufferings of the Palestinian people, there is a deterioration of economic, social, and humanitarian conditions, and the standard of living. Meanwhile, there is no change in the policies and behavior of the Israeli occupation authorities, which depend on violations against workers, employers and the Palestinian people. The Israeli occupation authorities continue to take further measures and procedures to have a full control of the Palestinian economy to continue robbing the will of the Palestinians negotiating their rights.

The report also denotes that the occupation authorities support settlement policies, programs and expansion plans through monopolizing resources, restricting the mobility and movement of people, resources and funds, through demolition of houses, confiscating lands, displacing the Palestinians, and eliminating the foundations of the Palestinian institutions and entity, which may negatively affect the Palestinian belonging and steadfastness. Israeli practices always target Palestinians, whether by killing, wounding or arresting them, as they continue to draft more laws to consolidate the Jewishness of the state, which make the Palestinians strangers at their home.

### The most prominent Israeli violations and atrocities include:

- Israel ignores the findings and recommendations in the reports of ILO, ALO, and other local, regional and international human rights institutions.
- Israel does not adhere to international labor conventions and standards, especially in regard of dealing with Palestinian workers.
- The Israeli authorities have not taken the necessary measures to facilitate the passage of Palestinian workers through Israeli checkpoints, refusing to expand them and facilitate procedures.
- The Israeli authorities refuse putting in place a joint mechanism with the Palestinian Ministry of Labor for the criteria to grant and distribute work permits.
- The Israeli side refuses to cooperate in providing accurate and real information about the financial rights of Palestinian workers and to undertake transfering the funds to the competent Palestinian authorities.

Therefore, the occupation authorities become isolated on one side, while the international community is on the other, as Israel adopts a stand against the international resolutions and charters that consolidate the legitimacy of the rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital. These gangs, however, work to consolidate their occupation of the Palestinian territories through a series of policies and procedures, encased by a arsenal of military equipment and dozens of racist laws and decrees aimed at emptying the Palestinian territories and displacing their inhabitants to establish more settlements and to eliminate any hope of

establishing their owe state. Onr of the priorities of the successive Israeli occupation governments is to continue the policy of judaizing Jerusalem, changing its Arab and Islamic nature, and isolating it completely from its surroundings. Eventually, this aims at obliterating the prospects of development, the siege of the Palestinian economy, raising unemployment and poverty rates, limiting mobility of individuals and goods, and blocking investment.

Regarding the occupied Syrian Golan, the situation has not changed, as the Syrian workers and people in this region live in unfavorable economic and social conditions that hamper any progress and development. In addition, there are the inhumane conditions of the Israeli occupation that put them under the worst arbitrary practices, and the full Israeli control over all economic sectors to force the Syrian people, especially young people, to migrate and leave their lands. Adding insult to injury, the United States unilaterally recognizes the sovereignty of Israel on the occupied Golan, an issue that we deplore in the Arab Labor Organization. This has not received any support from any regional or international organization or any country in the world. Further, Arab leaders reject this decision at the recent Arab summit "Tunisia, March 2019 ".

The situation is not different at all for the workers and people of the occupied southern Lebanon. The report of the Lebanese Ministry of Labor titled "The economic and social situation of employers and workers in the occupied territories in southern Lebanon" indicates that the Israeli occupation of the Shebaa Farms and Kafr Shuba hills has negative effects on the investment in these areas. Therefore, it affect the situation of employers and workers in this occupied area, as Israeli attacks and constant threats of invasion have a direct effect on the population, because this disrupts growth and affects both employers and workers. Further, there are more than two million internationally prohibited cluster bombs and other types of bombs that are scattered over large areas in the south. These bombs kill annually dozens of civilians and farmers, while block work at thousands of acres of agricultural land, which negatively affects the agricultural sector in the region.

# The report points out to high unemployment rates, which are caused mainly by the following:

- The tense security situation in the area,
- Lay off,
- Closure of work institutions due to deteriorating economic conditions,
- Conflicts with employers,
- Difficult and inappropriate working conditions,
- Low wages, and
- Unstable health and family reasons.

In addition, the region suffers from the lack of adequate infrastructure, the almost permanent disruption of water supplies, power outages, lack of hospitals, deterioration of the level of education in public schools, lack of classification of land to determine the ownership of private properties, and lack of marketing for agricultural products, especially olive oil.

These reasons, which are some of the sufferings of the workers and the people of Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, are the main concern of the Arab Group and the Arab Labor Organization. The Organization has always made continuous efforts to contribute to the defense of Arab interests in international gatherings in light of the inflexibility of the Israeli occupation authorities, their arbitrary measures, and their attempts to impose de facto situations to have more gains indefinitely at the expense of the indigenous peoples who have the legitimate rights.

Thank you.

Fayez Ali Almutairi

#### **Director Gener**

# **Section One**

# Effects of Israeli Settlements on the Social and Economic Conditions and the Labor Sector in Palestine

2018

# Introduction

Over years, occupation policies towards the Palestinian people and land are the same, and as they become even more radical, there is an organized terror led by institutions of a state that claims excellence and democracy in the region. This year represents an occupation determination to end any hope of a political solution in light of unlimited support from the American administration. This becomes more evident when one sees the US position on occupied Jerusalem, the transfer of its embassy, the cessation of financial support that includes health care institutions in Jerusalem, the continued pressure to stop the work of the UNRWA, and its desire to put forward a liquidation plan for the Palestinian cause known as the 'Deal of the Century'. This takes the region to a maze of options, while the international community fails to compel Israel to respect the resolutions of the international legitimacy, especially those relating to the Palestinian cause.

The occupation authorities have intensified the direct killing of Palestinian citizens, expanded the confiscation of land and the demolition of buildings and facilities, and the establishment of Jewish settlements and sites. Meanwhile, the occupation authorities have strangled the Palestinian economy by continuing to control the crossings and borders, the movement of goods and individuals, prevention of building especially in Area C, continuation of Gaza Strip siege, isolation and Judaization of Jerusalem, cutting off Palestinian areas by checkpoints and separation walls, and continuation of piracy and theft of Palestinian funds. Israeli procedures left nothing unharmed, even plants and animals, as the policies of the occupation left their destructive scars evident on the environment, health, labor,

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education, tourism, and economy. At the same time, the Israeli occupation forces have continued to obstruct the work of the Palestinian government and impose restrictions on the provision of services to citizens, especially in Jerusalem, Area C, and the besieged Gaza Strip.

# **Executive Summary**

1. Number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank	652052
2. Number of Israeli settlements and occupation spots	299
3. Number of occupation spots established in 2018	10
4. Number of services and industrial occupation spots	50
5. Number of military sites on Palestinian lands	93
6. Number of military academies	40
7. Number of permanent and temporary blocks and military barriers	705
8. Number of Israeli companies working on transfer of land ownership	614
9. Number of companies established in 2018	94
10. Number of schemes discussed in 2018	274
11. Palestinian land cultivated by Jewish settlers	110 K Acres
12. Land seized by occupation authorities in 2018	508 Acres
13. Total land areas under Israeli occupation control (excluding land planned	2642 KM2 (76.3%
to be segregated by the Wall)	of area C)
14. Number of buildings demolished by occupation authorities in 2018	538
15. Number of displaced people due to demolition	1300
16. Number of demolition notices in 2018	546
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17. Number of schools threated with full or partial demolition	50 schools
18. Number of Palestinians killed by occupation army in 2018	320
19. Number of attacks by Israeli settlers in 2018	862
20. Number of people injured by Israeli occupation army in 2018	31000
21. Number of Palestinian detainees since the start of the year	6489
22. Number of trees uprooted by occupation authorities or settlers	7122
23 Confiscated buildings set up by foreign support funds	70

# This report discusses the prominent violations of the occupation and the devastating effects of the settlement project:

#### I. Direct targeting of the Palestinians:

The main target of the occupation is the Palestinian people. While gangs of settlers seek to uproot and displace the Palestinians from their homeland, they spared no effort to achieve this goal, including collective punishment, murder, and shooting to make wounds and disability, especially for the young and children, and at the same time push thousands in its Nazi-like prisons. During this year, we recorded the following:

Martyrs: The Israeli occupation forces killed 312, including 50 martyrs from the West Bank. Most of them were executed in cold blood at checkpoints. Meanwhile, 262 martyrs were

killed in Gaza Strip, most of them were killed during participation in peaceful marches. Among the martyrs were **57** children and **3** women. This is also accompanied by continued collective punishment by the occupation against the

bodies of martyrs and their families, as the bodies are kept in numbered graves and refrigerators, while more than **38** bodies are kept by the authorities.

Injuries: The Israeli occupation forces shot and injured about 31,500 Palestinians with live and



metal ammunition, and poisonous gas, including 26,000 citizens in Gaza Strip and



5,519 in the West Bank and Jerusalem. There was no discrimination: men, women

and children are alike, as the occupation authorities tend to shoot to cause disability.

Arrests: The Israeli occupation forces arrested 6489 citizens, including 1063 children, 140 women, and 38 journalists, and they were incarcerated in the Nazi-like prisons. The Israeli



occupation forces contuinue to arrest dozens of women and children, depriving them of their basic human rights. The number of those arrested in the Nazi-like prisons are as high as 6000, including 250 children and 54 women.

#### **II. Demolition of houses and structures:**

The Israeli occupation authorities continued their policy of ethnic cleansing against Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and Jerusalem through adopting the policy of demolishing houses, homes, commercial, industrial and agricultural facilities and infrastructures. This aims at uprooting citizens from their land. This year, **538** houses and structures were demolished, including **157** homes and **381** structures, recording a **24**% increase compared to the previous year. Demolitions led to the displacement of **1**,300 people, including **225** children, in flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and all international laws and regulations. They also confiscated **69** housing, agricultural and commercial structures, and most of them were set up by international support funds. Jerusalem had the biggest share of the demolition cake, with a percentage of **45**%, as **68** houses and **178** structures were demolished. The decision to demolish and deport the Al Khan Al Ahmar east of Jerusalem continued, which means demolition of **35** houses inhabited by **181** 

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citizens, and a school of **170** students from the Bedouin communities. If this demolition plan is implemented, the occupation authorities would have tightened control over the eastern areas of Jerusalem, and thus facilitating the Judaization of the area and linking Israeli communities and settlements together in preparation for what it calls Greater Jerusalem.

The demolished structures are distributed as follows: (inhabited places 98, uninhabited places 59, care facilities 86, income sources 123, infrastructure 10, baths 18, others 77).

Area	# of Demolitions	Percentage
Jenin	21	4.5
Tulkarm	2	0.4
Nablus	9	1.9
Salfit	7	1.5
Ramallah	35	7.4
Jericho	37	7.9
Jerusalem	215	45.6
Bethlehem	30	6.4
Tubas	34	7.2
Hebron	81	17.2
Total	471	100%

#### The table shows demolition according to areas

## **Demolition Notices:**

The total number of demolition notices documented by the 'Wall and Settlement Resistance Committee' during the period of the report was **546**, including demolition notices, construction suspensions, and an additional opportunity notices to object the demolition orders. Sixty percent of these notices were concentrated in Hebron, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem.

Area	# of Demolitions	Percentage
Jericho	28	5.1
Hebron	159	29.1
Jerusalem	95	17.4
Bethlehem	75	13.7
Jenin	6	1.1
Ramallah and Al - Bireh	88	16.1
Salfit	34	6.2
Topaz	8	1.5
Tulkarm	5	0.9
Qalqilya	20	3.7
Nablus	28	51
Total	546	100%

# Distribution of demolition notices by governorates in 2018

#### **III. Settlement:**

The policy of settlement expansion is the most dangerous policy adopted by the occupation authorities towards the Palestinian lands, as scores of decisions and laws reinforce and legalize this policy, giving extremist settlers the right to build settlement outposts, expand existing settlements, confiscate lands, and build roads. This is meant to empty the land of the population and push them to migrate or move to cities so that cities would be closed cantons, under the control of the occupation gangs. The number of settlements and outpost settlements is more than 515 inhabited by about 850 thousand settlers, built on more than 500 thousand acres. Recently, the Israeli occupation authorities have considered the American decision to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and to transfer the embassy to it as a green light to increase settlement projects, especially in Greater Jerusalem. The Israeli government has allocated billions of dollars annually in favor of settlement expansion. During this year, occupation authorities approved the construction of a new settlement south of the city of Nablus, called "Amihai", and also legitimized 66 settlement outposts out of 250 outposts, and built a road to the settlement. The occupation authorities also approved the establishment of a settlement neighborhood in Gush Etzion settlement, and approved the construction of more than 10298 new housing units in West Bank settlements, including 2600 housing units in Jerusalem. The authorities offered dozens of settlement plans for implementation. including the construction of settlements. roads and infrastructures, as \$ 230 million. Is allocated to the road network alone this year. At the same time, more than 839 checkpoints and electronic gates were set to

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segregate the Palestinian communities and areas. The following tables show the policy of the occupation government to expand settlements:

# Israeli laws ratified in 2018

# Sr. Law Law No. Ratification Date Comments

1. The Law of Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel (Amendment No. 2). 4346/20/P 01. 01. 2018 stipulates that any political change that affects the jurisdiction of Jerusalem Municipality requires approval of a two-thirds majority of the members of the Knesset.

2. Law imposing the powers of the Israeli Higher Education Council on the occupied West Bank. 20/4824/P 13. 02. 2018. This law imposes the powers of the Israeli Higher Education Council on Israeli institutions in the occupied West Bank (Ariel University). This law is one of the laws of crawling annexation.

3. A law authorizing the withdrawal of permanent residency from the people of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights on the grounds of carrying out a "terror" operation or a political activity. 4744/20/P 07. 03. 2018. This law authorizes the Israeli Interior Minister to withdraw the permanent residency from the citizens of the Golan and Jerusalem if they are proven to perform a political or propaganda activities against Israel.

4. Anti-terrorism law (Amendment No. 3), 20/4826/P 07. 03. 2018, provides for imposing financial fines on the families of the martyrs, enforcing certain conditions on the funeral and the burial process, allowing retaining the body indefinitely.

5. Extending the temporary law to prevent the reunification of Arab families 04. 06. 2018. It prohibits granting permanent residency to one of the spouses if he/she is from an Arab family, whether from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, or from an Arab origin or country.

6. A law that prevents West Bank Palestinians from resorting to the Israeli Supreme Court, 20/3861/P 16. 07. 2018. This law prohibits citizens of the West Bank from going directly to the Supreme Court with complaints or petitions against decisions issued by the occupation authorities, especially regarding confiscation of land and property.

7. Basic Law: Israel is the national State of the Jewish People 20/1989/P 19.07.2018. In addition to the obvious racism in this law, it states that the "unified and full" Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

8. Law to compensate the affected Jews from the so-called "terror" operations 4266/20/P 12. 12. 2018. The purpose of this law is to compensate the Jews injured during operations carried out by Palestinians from the funds of the Palestinian Authority.

9. Law of National Parks, Natural Reservoirs, and Archaeological & Memorial Sites (Number 17), 4135/20/P 12. 12. 2018. The purpose of this law is to compensate the Jews injured during operations carried out by Palestinians from the funds of the Palestinian Authority.

10. The law of confiscation of funds from the Palestinian Authority under the pretext of supporting "terrorism" 4079/20/P 05. 03. 2018. It states that amounts are deducted from the Palestinian tax allocations equal to the allocations given to the families of martyrs paid by official bodies.

## **Draft Laws**

Sr. Draft Law Law No. Date of Last Procedure Clarifications

1. Death penalty for those convicted of murder for "terrorist background". 20/4638 /P 14. 11. 2018. The bill provides for the undisputed death sentence on Palestinians from the occupied West Bank convicted for "terrorist" murder. This does not include Israeli settlers.

2 - A law granting the colonies part of the tax of industrial areas such as what is applied in Israel. 20/4415/P, 11. 06. 2018. This draft is part of the process of the silent annexation as the Israeli law is applied on the colonies, with the aim of granting the colonies a portion of the tax of the assets of the industrial and commercial areas adjacent thereto.

3. A draft law to place "state lands" in the West Bank under the control of the Settlement Authority. According to this draft law, "state lands" include, in addition to the lands registered in the name of the Jordanian treasury, the lands declared by the occupation as state lands, the lands of the absentee, and the lands confiscated for military purposes and converted to Jewish settlements.

4. A draft law to prevent the publication of pictures on the activities of the occupation soldiers 5377/20/P, 20. 06. 2018. This draft law imposes a penalty of five to ten years imprisonment on anyone who publishes on social networks, or in the media, video tape, or a voice clip, showing occupation soldiers performing their duties.

5. A draft law to prohibit visiting prisoners whose organizations detained Israelis. 4964/20/P, 21. 11. 2018. This draft law prohibits visiting Palestinian prisoners belonging to organizations that held Israeli bodies or soldiers.

6. A draft law on the pastoral areas in the Palestinian territories to build houses for settlements. 4099/20/P, 19. 11. 2018. According to the draft law, Palestinian pastoral areas will be confiscated under several pretexts to build investment buildings.

7. A draft Settlement Law (2) 5644/20 /P, 09. 12. 2018. It provides for the suspension of any action against settlements and colonial sites, or the evacuation and demolition of units therein. It also offers large facilities in taxes and real estate.

8. A draft law to expel and deport Palestinian families whose sons carried out attacks that resulted in the killing and injury of Israelis. 20/3458/P, 19. 12. 2018. According to this draft law, the families of the perpetrators will be deported to Gaza Strip, and in other cases they will be deported from areas B, C and A.

9 - Settlement Division Draft Law 4920/20 /P, 24. 12. 2018. This draft law and the competent authority responsible for the properties of the absentees, such as lands and real estate, allow the transfer the properties to the Settlement Division to manage and use them for the purposes of settlements.

### **Draft Laws Submitted to the Legislation Committee**

### Sr. Draft Law Law No. Date of Last Procedure Clarifications

1. Proposing a law to impose "Israeli sovereignty" on the Jordan Valley area in the occupied West Bank, 4993/20 /P, 15. 01. 2018. The draft law suggests imposing "Israeli sovereignty" on the Jordan Valley area in the occupied West Bank.

2. Proposing a law that would establish the sovereignty of the State of Israel on the occupied West Bank, 20/5104/P, 02. 05. 2018. The draft law allows the imposition of "Israeli sovereignty" over all area (c), which is another version of draft law number 5105.

3. Proposing a law to grant immunity for all members of the Israeli security for crimes committed against the Palestinians, 5178/20/P, 26. 02. 2018. The draft law suggests that no soldiers, workers and volunteers in all security units shall be held accountable for crimes against Palestinians.

4. Proposing a law to cancel the land purchasing law in the West Bank. 5253/20/P, 14. 03. 2018. The draft law abolishes the Jordanian law issued in 1953, as a military order, which applies in the Palestinian territories prohibiting the sale of land to foreigners.

5. Proposing a law allowing anyone to purchase land in the West Bank. 5270/20/P, 14. 03. 2018. This draft law allows anyone to buy land in the West Bank, as settlers are meant here, because the purchase is currently limited to companies and institutions.

6. Proposing a law to impose "sovereignty" on the Jordan Valley and giving the nationality to Palestinians there. 5350/20/P, 30. 04. 2018. The draft law imposes the so-called "Israeli sovereignty" on the Jordan Valley and the northern Dead Sea, provided that permanent residency of "non-Jewish" Palestinians shall be granted after 5 years to anyone who has not participated in resistance activities against the occupation.

7. Proposing a law to impose a light "penalty" on a soldier who kills a Palestinian in violation of the army's instructions. 20/5406/P, 28. 05. 2018. The objective of this law is to prevent soldiers to stand before criminal courts, as was the case with the soldier Azaria. This is proposed after repeated killings of Palestinians by soldiers in violation of the instructions.

8. Proposing a law banning the adhaan (call for prayers) in mosques, 3590/20/P, 19. 06. 2018. It gives the Israeli police the power to storm mosques and confiscate loudspeakers if the adhaan is called from the dusk to dawn.

9. Proposing a law imposing fines on those who make noise in the public domain, 5500/20/P, 19. 06.2018. This draft law is meant to prevent those workers who wake up Muslims for the late night meal in the occupied city of Jerusalem during the holy month of Ramadan.

10. Proposing a law that offers discounts on land taxes for settlers in the West Bank, 5555/20/P, 09. 09. 2018. The law calls for a reduction in taxes for land and real estate ownership for settlers in the West Bank.

#### **Israeli Government Decisions in 2018**

Decisions of the Israeli government have inclined unprecedentedly towards the racist settlement sites, whose prime victims were the Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line, whether by adopted resolutions or draft laws. However, this report will focus on public decisions issued by this government in 2018 and affected in a direct way the reality and future of the Palestinian territories, occupied since 1967, under the Israeli colonial project adopted by the Government of Netanyahu. The following are examples of these decisions:

- On February 4, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decisions No. 3515 to build a new settlement on Palestinian land claiming to be a private Israeli land. The Israeli Defense Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, was asked to accelerate the completion of the required plans for the new settlement buildings and infrastructure, including defining the location on which this settlement will be built and all judicial matters relating to construction.
- On February 11, 2018, The Israeli government issued Decision No. 3542 to approve the rehabilitation and development of the "Jewish Quarter" in the Old City of Jerusalem, and to operate the "Archeological Park", which they called (Davidson). A partnership contract with "Elad" Association was signed on 31/8/2017 to develop the "Jewish Quarter" and operate the "Archaeological Park".
- On February 25, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 3598 to build temporary houses and buildings for the settlers of Netiv Haabout to support the settlers and to strengthen colonial settlement in the Gush Etzion. Accordingly, a temporary site shall be built for the settlers instead of their current site in southern Bethlehem, close to "Alon Shoft" settlement. The Israeli Ministry of Finance will transfer NIS 27 million to the Ministry of the Interior to transfer the funds directly to the Gush Etzion Regional Council.
- On March 5, 2018, in the light of the deliberations on the appeal of the decision of the Ministry of Health against the decision of the Ministerial

Committee for Planning, Building, Land and Housing on a national plan for mining and quarrying, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 3627. It is remarkable that this decision reflects the Netanyahu government's position on the legal status of the occupied territories, which it treats as a part of Israel, and falls within the jurisdiction of the Israeli organizational authorities, not the occupation authorities.

- On March 15, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 3688, which confirms a previous decision to finance the judicial defense of high political and security leaders in the event of judicial proceedings against them in different countries of the world for war crimes.
- On March 29, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 3717 on the development and construction of new settlement neighborhoods in Modi'in Illit. The Israeli Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with the settlement council, issued construction license for 3500 units, and the decision included the transfer of NIS 30 million in the event that the building permit was issued for 1500 units, while another NIS 60 million would be transferred when the building permit was issued for the remaining 2000 units. The rest of the budgets would be transferred later.
- On April 15, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision 3738, which maps the areas of national priorities that will receive government support. This map includes most of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank.
- On April 15, 2018, the Israeli Government issued Decision 3739 on extending the validity of the Declaration of the Social Environment as a national priority. It is noted that the term "social environment" was created to provide the Israeli government with a margin and cover to divert support and incentives to Israeli settlements in the West Bank without provoking protests by the poor segments of society.
- On April 15, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 3742 to support the Dead Sea settlements through development and construction. The government commissioned the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, in cooperation with the Civil Administration, to prepare and submit detailed

plans including issuing a building permit in the Dead Sea colonies. The settlements of the regional council include "Miglut" to support the tourism sector in these settlements, the construction of more hotels, and the support of the industrial and economic sectors. The cost of this project will reach hundreds of millions of shekels. The project includes demining the area, allocating 750 acres for palm growing, the construction of new infrastructure networks and building and rehabilitating roads. Planning, licensing, and construction shall be made in December 31, 2020.

- Pursuant to the previous Israeli government decisions No. 4090, dated 09.08.2005, decisions No. 4651 dated 20. 05. 2012 and decisions No. 2678 dated 28. 05. 2017, the Israeli government issued decision No. 3788 on supporting what it calls "the Holy Basin area" in the Old City of Jerusalem, where it was decided to approve an additional five-year plan implemented during the years 2019/2024.
- On May 13, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 3789 to prepare a national plan for the purpose of searchoing for archaeological sites in Old Jerusalem and promoting Jerusalem as an important international site for religions, heritage and tourism. The Israeli government allocated NIS 47 million to the Antiquities Authority to achieve this target in 2018-2019.
- On May 13, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 3791 on promoting the Aerial tramway tourist project in Old Jerusalem, in line with the policy of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, to promote and develop tourism and to support and promote Jerusalem as a central international tourist destination. The Israeli Ministry of Tourism was assigned the task of planning and establishing the Aerial tramway tourist project in the vicinity of Old Jerusalem in the corridor between the first station complex and the cave door at a total cost of up to NIS 200 million in 2018/2019.
- On July 27, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 4074 to support groups of volunteers working in the rural settlements and carry out agricultural activities in the areas designated as national priority areas.

The decision offers support during the years 2019/2022 by transferring NIS 16.5 million to the Ministry of Agriculture for 2019, in addition to the transfer of NIS 13.2 million every year to 2022.

- On August 12, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 4109 to support the settlement of Kiryat Arba and the settlement sites in Hebron. Tis decision amended decision No. 1652 dated July 10, 2016. The amendment included instructing the director of industrial zones in the Ministry of Economy and Industry to allocate NIS 10 million in 2018 to expand the industrial zone in "Kiryat Arba" through increasing its area with about 100 acres.
- On August 16, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 4115 to extend the validity of Government Decision No. 1527 on offering more facilitations for areas of national priorities in construction and housing issued on June 13, 2016. Facilitations are offered until November 30, 2018 or until a new decision on the same issue is issued.
- On September 5, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 4149 in response to the UNESCO Heritage Committee's acknowledgment of Hebron as a world heritage site registered in the name of Palestine. Following the withdrawal of Israel from UNESCO and the suspension of the transfer of Israeli membership funds (NIS 3.5 million). This decision was made to transfer these funds to the Jewish heritage sites in Hebron and Kiryat Aryeh to increase the awareness of the Israelis about the historic link between the Jewish people and Hebron. This decision shall be financed froom the budget of the Ministry of Jerusalem and Relief.
- On September 20, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 4170 for devoting the judaization of the city of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The Israeli government adopted a number of activities to express appreciation for the Judaization procedures in Jerusalem "Continuing to Access Jerusalem". These activities shall be financed by several Israeli ministries.
- On October 14, 2018, the Israeli government issued Decision No. 4189 to finance the construction of (32) settlement units (a new settlement neighborhood named Hezekiah) in the Old City of Hebron. The Israeli

ministries will contribute to the financing of the project as follows: the Ministry of Education NIS 3 million, the Ministry of Security NIS 2.8 million, the Ministry of Finance NIS 2.8 million, the Ministry of Housing NIS 2 million, the Ministry of Tourism NIS 2 million, the Ministry of Agriculture NIS 1.5 million and the Ministry of Science and Technology NIS 1 million.

#### **IV. Confiscation and Dredging of Land and Destruction of Properties:**

The occupation authorities and gangs of the settlers continued targeting Palestinian land by confiscating and dumping, destroying buildings, agricultural projects and animal pens, uprooting trees, destroying crops, and confiscating water sources. The occupation authorities and gangs of settlers confiscated about 40,000 acres in the West Bank, as acres of agricultural land were dredged and resulted in uprooting 7600 fruit trees, destruction of about 1,000 acres planted in the Jordan Valley, killing and stealing more than 200 head of livestock. They also worked on destroying 402 cars, burning houses and mosques, and repeated stone throwing for citizens on settlement roads, ruining wells and water tanks, and destroyed irrigation and greenhouses networks in more than 10 special-needs schools that provide service to hundreds of students in threatened areas and Bedouin communities.

The Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission recorded more than 862 settlers' attacks over the past year. This marks a noticeable increase in the frequency of attacks compared to the previous year, especially these attacks become more violent and extreme than ever before in light of the full sponsorship of these attacks by the occupation authorities. Though this marks an exchange of roles between the authorities and the gangs, it became evident that there is a systematic approach to tighten the grip on the Palestinians. The militias and gangs of settlers such as "hill youth", "rebellion" and "price payment" are a clear indication of the methodology of the occupation procedures in the Palestinian territories. These attacks were concentrated in Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron, which accounted for over 73% of all settlers' attacks.

#### **Israeli Hostilities:**

#### **Physical assaults:**

During the past year, two Palestinian citizens (Aisha al-Rubi, 47), the mother of eight children, were killed by stones thrown by the settlers near the Za'tara checkpoint and the old man (Muhammad Hibishan, 85) was also killed after being hit by two vehicles



belonging to settlers on the ring road near the Bedouins' Mill North Eastern Ramallah. Further, 125 Palestinians were injured as a result of assaults by the settlers, whether by beating, throwing stones, running over, or shooting.

### **Attcks on Palestinian properties:**

Attacks on land: This includes (land grabs, land dredging, establishing settlement outposts or buildings, etc...). Agricultural areas were neglected and severely damaged because farmers were denied access to their land, to plow and take care for it. In addition to dredging the land by settlers, such as the cae in Om Safa village near the settlement of Ateret, where 500 acres of agricultural land were dredged, settlers attempted to seize the land to expand the settlement. Under this framework, there is also the phenomenon of "settlement outposts" that expand the area of settlements and double the area of looted land. This phenomenon is manifested in the placement of 17 caravans.

# Table showing distribution of attacks by settlers by type of attack

Attacks on im/moveable properties	Totral	Attacks on individuals	Totral
Writing racist slogans & tyre damaging	46	Beating	69
Cutting and burning trees	789	Shooting	15
Setting fire	26	Running over	23
Stone throwing	166	Martyrs	2
Road storming and blocking	95		
Caravan placement	18	Total injuries	125
Other	38	Attacks on religious places	288

- Uprooting and dredging trees and crops, as the total attacks on trees and crops were (78) attacks.
- Uprooting and damaging 7000 olive and vine trees. The attacks were concentrated in the communities of Baan, Hawar, Qarout, Jab'a, Halhul, Tirmseya, Beit Ascariya, Arrabeh and al-Khader.
- Assaulting houses such as breaking into homes and causing physical damage, and sometimes expelling their inhabitants. Most of them were concentrated in the Old City of Hebron.
- Attacking vehicles, as over 325 cars were damaged and anti-Arab slogans were sprayed during 46 attacks, and glasses of other 45 cars were broken as a result of stones thrown at roadblocks.
- More than 86 incursions into Palestinian towns and villages, closure of roads and provocative actions of Palestinian civilians were carried out in

the villages of Urif, Baan, Deir al-Hatab, Madma, Kafr Qaddum, Sawiya, Hawara, Nabi Saleh and the Old City of Hebron.

Attacks on religious places: The number of incursions carried out by the settlers to Al Aqsa Mosque was 288, as more than 29,800 settlers participated in these attacks, representing an increase of 17% in the number of those who participated in the assaults compared to the previous year. Knesset members and ministers participated in the incursions after the Israeli Prime Minister allowed Members of the Knesset to visit Al Aqsa regularly once every three months.

The length of the annexation and expansion Wall surrounding the holy city is 93 km, while there is another uncompleted part of another 46 km as an extension. Therefore, the Wall isolates more than 84 kilometers, while more than 68 other kilometers are planned for future isolation as well. Meanwhile, the number of Israeli settlements within the municipal boundaries is 12 settlements in addition to 10 settlement outposts and Jewish neighborhoods.

The total number of Israeli settlers in Jerusalem is 220,000 settlers in 14 Israeli settlements surrounding the city (in addition to the industrial area of Attarot and Jerusalem Airport). Moreover, around 3,500 settlers live in the city's enlarged Jewish quarter. There are also 430 settlers live in 86 settlement structures sprawling in the Palestinian neighborhoods of the Old City. More than 1,100 settlers are illegally located in 250 settlement structures in Palestinian neighborhoods of occupied Jerusalem (outside the city limits).

In addition, since the beginning of 2018, the Israeli occupation authorities demolished a total of 210 buildings and structures, which led to the displacement of more than 217 people, including more than 110 children. The number of buildings destroyed was 69 (41 of which were inhabited). This displaced 197 people, including 97 children, and subsequently affected 1250 people indirectly.

As part of its continued tightening the grip on Palestinians in the city, the Israeli Ministerial Legislation Committee approved a draft law allowing the withdrawal of the residency for any Palestinian living in Jerusalem. The Knesset approved the "Unified Jerusalem" law in its third review. This law prohibits the transfer of any part of the occupied city of Jerusalem in any future settlement without a twothirds majority approval of the Knesset members.

The occupation authorities withdrew the residency from the mother of one of the martyrs, a policy that Israel used more than 14,582 times between 1967 and 2018. This policy is illegal under international law, so that the punitive withdrawal of the residency of Palestinians is the current most used policy to deport Palestinians forcibly from East Jerusalem.

In addition, Israel deported 108 Palestinins from Jerusalem and Al Aqsa mosque, while some of them were under house arrest. The Israeli Minister of the Interior, Aryeh Deri, decided also to withdraw the identities of the three Jerusalem deputies and former Minister Khaled Abu Arafeh on the pretext of "disloyalty to Israel", and to arrest the governor of Jerusalem more than once and placed him under house arrest to prevent him from accessing the West Bank cities. Al-Aqsa Mosque officials said that about 28 thousand settlers stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in 2018, according to preliminary statistics, compared to 26 thousand settlers last year. The occupation authorities also recorded other serious attacks against the mosque, including its full closure twice.

The Israeli measures went beyond the limits of the restrictions on the lives of Palestinians through arrest, demolishing their properties, and fighting them in their most basic rights, but they continue seeking to change the identity of the Holy City and Judaize it in full. There are continuous disruptions of the Islamic buildings in the city through drilling operations in the Qusair Umayyad region, under the northern part of the building of the Islamic Museum. Meanwhile, specialists confirmed, after tests conducted in the area opposite the excavation site on the ground, that water thrown in different areas of the museum garden disappear. This confirms that there are holes underground due to drilling operations. The Islamic Waqf Department said that the interest in this area is because the occupation plans ti link tunnels and excavations in this area, especially the excavations of the Western Umayyad palaces, the southwestern corner of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Western Wall tunnel network, and the Silwan tunnels. While this comes as a part of Al-Buraq area project, these activities are associated with other suspicious activities of the occupation, such as filming the area on a daily basis. In the meantime, the so-called "Antiquities Authority" of the occupation state carries out excavations in the town of Silwan, in cooperation and financial partnership with a list of settlement societies, as "Alad" Society comes at the top of this list. For years, the occupation state have been building an underground city through a network of tunnels stretching under the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque. This huge project seeks to create what can be described as a "underground city" that would be full of "selected monuments" that does not have any reference to the genuine owners of the land, in preparation for opening it to tourists to get the Israeli myths pass as facts.

The occupation authorities in 2018 arrested about 1,600 Palestinians from Jerusalem, a quarter of them are children. The detainees include 30 children under the age of 14, and 55 women. The arrests in 2018 have been as high as the past few years, and accompanied by attacks, beatings and abuse, in addition to the increase of the number of Jerusalemite deportees from the city and Al-Aqsa Mosque. In addition, the occupation authorities held four (4) bodies of Palestinians from the city of Jerusalem.

In the Old City of Jerusalem and the neighboring town of Silwan, south of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, settlers' groups have taken six (6) Palestinian homes.

Sufferings of the Holy City continue under the measures of the occupation authorities, which seeks to tighten control and forcibly displace its communities for the sake of the settlers within the framework of racist schemes. This includes the E1 scheme, through which Israel aims to completely close the Jerusalem area to the Palestinians and establish geographical contiguity between the so-called 'Jerusalem Belt' that seeks to pursuit of the occupation dreams to establish 'Greater Jerusalem', hence its danger. This aims at creating a real separation between the center and north of the West Bank on the one hand, and its South on the other. Therefore, this scheme is seen as the last link between the north, center and south of the West Bank. It blocks the development of Palestinian communities in the city of Jerusalem, which is suffering greatly in the availability of land for housing and, and suffers lack of strategic reserve for growth eastward, as per the scheme (E1), which is controlled by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Colonial plans in occupied Jerusalem continue to tighten control, cut off the holy city, and link settlement sites to each other. In this context, the current light rail route, called the "Red Line", runs in its current and next stages for about 14 kilometers from the settlement of 'Pisgat Ze'ev' north of the occupied Jerusalem, as the settlement is built on the land of Beit Hanina, Shuafat and Hizma, to the "Mount Harnsel" area. This route has 23 stops, three of them, namely Beit Hanina, Shu'fat and Al-Sahl, penetrate the center of the Palestinian village of Shu'fat. Naturally, the Israelis employ this to claim that this train serves both Arabs and Jews, adding that this project is a civil project and has nothing to do with politics. The 'green line' will cover 22.4 kilometers, with 37 stops, from "Mount Al-Masharaf" in the east, near the palace of Haj Amin al-Husseini, the former Mufti, passing through the settlement of 'Giv'at Ram', to link between the two campuses of the Hebrew University, then to the south, through Beit Safafa, and to Gilo settlement, the southern settlement around Jerusalem. The line then goes north to the settlement of 'Neveh Yokuf', and further to the south, to Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem.

In addition, the Municipality of the occupation and the Ministry of Transport work to endorse, with the Israeli 'National Infrastructure Committee' the final approval of Jerusalem aerial tramway, signed by the settlers and planned for several years, through the so-called 'Development Authority of Jerusalem'. According to the scheme, the aerial tramway starts from the German Quarter, passes through the Tur neighborhood, Mount of Olives, and the settlements of occupied Jerusalem, then to the large settlement outpost "The Visitors Center", set up by the "Elad" settlement association in Wadi Hilweh neighborhood in Silwan, south of Al Aqsa Mosque. Then, it continues to the Western Wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the last stop. The Israeli organization 'Ir Amim' pointed out that in 2018 the government approved plans for the construction of 5820 new settlement units in the city and published a tender for the construction of 603 additional settlement units. The colonial company 'Moria for the development of Jerusalem' issued a tender for the construction of the 'American Road' project, which would confiscate 1200 acres fom the lands of Mount Makbar, Sheikh Saad and Eastern Sawahrah. The road shall extend for 11.5 km. There are also plans to establish a 'pedestrian tourist bridge' linking Al-Thawri neighborhood and Prophet Daoud neighborhood in the town of Silwan south of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The so-called 'Wailing Wall Heritage Fund' submitted also a bid to launch the Jewish project 'Beit Halibah' that shall be established near Buraq Square.

The Knesset also approved a new Israeli draft law on taxes on churches and church owners in East Jerusalem. This law breaches the status of Christian churches in Palestine for centuries. Under the law, the Jerusalem municipality issued letters to the churches on February 25, 2018 asking for payment of what is called 'Arnona' tax, threatening to block their bank accounts and confiscate their properties if the churches abstained from paying the taxes. The Israeli action aims to pressure the churches that are followed by 130 educational, medical and community institutions in Jerusalem to impose a new reality that falls within the plans to expel the Jerusalemites from Jerusalem that is seen as the Jewish city.

In early March 2018, the Israeli Knesset passed the second and third readings of the law that authorizes the Israeli Minister of Interior to withdraw the identities of Jerusalemites under the pretext of 'breaching the State of Israel'. This law was intended to bypass the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court that rejected previous decisions of the Minister of Interior on the same issue, and therefore prompted the government coalition to accelerate the enactment of a new law allowing what the Supreme Court blocked.

The Knesset's Interior and Environment Quality Committee approved the first reading of a draft law submitted by Elad colonial association, which allows for the construction of residential buildings in Silwan in an area that is declared a 'national park.' The occupation authorities plan to build residential buildings in what the occupation authorities call the "City of David" in Silwan. This was seen as a part of the 'national park' that surrounds the walls of occupied Jerusalem. The purpose of the draft law is to revive 'Elad' association's plan to build 200 housing units in the place, but the plan was met with reservations back in 1990s.

#### Living conditions:

According to the latest statistics published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the population of Jerusalem is 435 thousands, most of them are youth under the age of 29. According to the statistics, that included most of the areas separated by the Wall, 95,152 families live in Jerusalem, and the last year had a birth rate of 4.5 children, while the number of males exceeds the number of females by about 14700; meanwhile, the proportion of refugees from the governorate of Jerusalem is 25.1% of the total population.

Population density among Jerusalemites recorded a high level, reaching 1236 person per km2, while the population density in the West Bank did not exceed 512 person per km 2. This high level of population density has been confronted by the occupation, which practices a systematic colonial policy to empty the Holy City of its original inhabitants and replace them with Jewish settlers.

In addition, the Palestinian neighborhoods lack 2,557 classrooms. While a total of 37 summer school rooms are built per year, the actual need is to build 70 summer school rooms per year. In addition, more than one-third of the students do not have 12 years of education. Only 52% of the city's population is connected to the water network regularly and legally. In addition, the Jerusalem Municipality does not provide a service to Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, except only six clinics for mothers and children health care, although they make up about 40% of the city's population. In contrast, Jewish neighborhoods in the city have 27 clinics. The municipality provides four entertainment facilities in Paestinian neighborhoods, compared to 19 in the Jewish neighborhoods, although 76% of the population in the Palestinian neighborhoods live below the poverty line. In the last year, unemployment among Jerusalemites increased by

1.5% to reach 19.9% of the individuals making the labor force (15 years and above). Meanwhile, Israeli human rights organizations in Jerusalem stressed that the issue of shortage of school classrooms for Palestinians in the city is not related to budget deficit, but to racial discrimination, under a fragile pretext.

In a different context, the sufferings of Jerusalemites from direct occupation procedures and measures do not stop. A series of social studies and reports indicates that there are more than 15000 drug addicts in the city of Jerusalem alone, and that the occupation army seeks to support and strengthen the presence of drug dealers in the city with a clear cover and support from the authorities. Drug dealers are protected from any civilian efforts to prevent them from selling drugs in Arab neighborhoods. East Jerusalem is located within Area B under the agreements signed by the Palestinian Authority and the occupation, which gives broad powers to the occupation police to work in those areas, while clearly restricting the work of the Palestinian police.

The occupation encourages dumping the young Jerusalemites with drugs through a series policies and laws, such as offering the amount of \$ 500 for single Jerusalemites and \$ 1000 for married Jerusalemites in the event of proven drug abuse for a certain period of time. The Jerusalemites see that this is a clear encouragement and support for the spread of drugs among young Jerusalemites, under the guise of assessment of social assistance.

### **Judaizing Education in Jerusalem:**

#### **Historical background:**

After the Israeli military occupied Arab territories in June 1967, the occupation authorities demarked the boundaries of the municipality of Jerusalem, both the Western side occupied and ethically cleansed in 1948 and the Eastern side occupied in 1967. All preparatory schools (grades 1-9) that fall within the newly demarked boundaries of Jerusalem follow the Israeli Ministry of Education. Meanwhile, the secondary schools (grades 10-12) follow the municipality of the occupation. Meanwhile, all other schools in Jerusalem follow other education directorates surrounding the city (Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jericho).

The Israeli occupation authorities, through the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem, tried to impose the Israeli curriculum on Arab schools from the beginning of the academic year 1967-1968. However, all the attempts were confronted with a firm stance, both by the teaching staff, students and parents, refusing the Israeli academic curriculum, insisting on the curriculum adopted in the rest of the schools in the West Bank, which is the same Jordanian academic curriculum.

With the help of the Kingdom of Jordan, new schools were established under the supervision of the late Hosni Ash-hab, the Director of Education in the preoccupation Jerusalem. These schools, known as Hosni Ash-hab achools, became private schools alternative to the schools of the Israeli Ministry of Education and the occupation municipality. This forced the Israeli occupation authorities in the end to retreat from the project of imposing the Israeli curriculum on Jerusalem students.

This reality continued until the early 1980s, and more specifically until July 1980, when the Israeli parliament ratified the Basic Law on the annexation of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. The occupation authorities then resorted to allowing the establishment of what was known and continues to be 'Life Schools', which are private commercial schools. These schools are intended to achieve two main tasks in the short term: the first is to solve the problem of growing shortage of classrooms and remove this burden from the Israeli occupation authorities. The second is to ensure that these schools follow the Israeli Ministry of Education. To achieve this, the occupation Ministry of Education and the municipality were committed to pay a certain amount of money to supervisors of each school for all Jerusalemites.

With the outbreak of the popular uprising '*intifada*' at the end of 1987 and the subsequent disengagement between the West Bank and Jordan, a serious

education problem arose in the city of Jerusalem, namely education allocations. These allocations include the salaries of educational staff, including salaries of the staff of Hosni Ash-hab achools, which were paid by the Jordanian treasury. Stopping the allocations may lead to a state of vacuum that may allow Israel to control these schools. The problem was overcome by a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement whereby the umbrella of the department of Islamic Waqf (Endowments) supervised these schools, because the endowments sector is the only sector that was excluded from the disengagement. After that, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was responsible for the financial burdens of these schools. This step kept these schools as institutions of national education, as their actual reference today is the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education.

#### **Data on the Education Sector in the Holy City:**

After the rise of the Palestinian Authority in the first half of the 1990s, the Israeli

occupation authorities refused to allow the Palestinian Ministry of Education to exercise its full authority in Jerusalem. For example, it is denied the righ to impose its unified curriculum for all Arab schools in the occupied part of the city, such as the case in the rest



of the Palestinian schools, or even building schools and classrooms to meet the growing shortage. In return, the occupation authorities worked towards the establishment of more Life Schools.

There are five types of schools in Jerusalem today, according to the references that supervise these schools. They are as follows:

**I: Public schools (Islamic endowments schools):** These schools, as mentioned earlier, are under the umbrella of the Awqaf Foundation, but they follow in reality the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The Ministry supervises these schools in all matters. The number of these schools upon the

time of disengagement with Jordan in 1988 was 16, but today the number reaches 49 offering 652 classrooms, serving 12312 students who constitute 12% of the total students in Jerusalem.

II: Private schools: These are private or foreign licensed non-governmental

educational institution run by individuals or associations. There are 83 schools with a total of 1231 classrooms, serving 30260 students, constituting 34.4% of all students.

**III: The schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA):** There are seven of these schools with 67



classrooms. The number of these schools is decreasing, and they offer only primary education. The Ministry of Education coordinates with these schools to arrange integrating the schools' graduates into public schools.

**IV: Schools directly supervised by the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Municipality of the Occupation**: These are 70 schools, providing education to 39,151 students, constituting 44.5% of all Jerusalemite students.

**V: Life Schools:** Teachers in these schools receive their salaries from the Israeli Ministry of Education. The Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education does not recognize these schools. The number of these schools is 19 schools, serving 5015 students, constituting 5.7% of the total number of students. In regard of the relationship between the Palestinian Ministry of Education and the rest of the non-affiliated schools, it can be summarized as follows:

- The relationship with UNRWA schools is an extension of its relations with all schools in the governorates of the country.
- The relationship with the schools affiliated to the occupation municipality and the Israeli Ministry of Education is limited to providing the academic curriculum, documenting the students' grades, and the preparation of the general secondary exam.
- The relationship with private schools depends on the school itself, especially when the school is recognized or supervised by national institutions. It is an extension of the relationship between the ministry and

other similar schools in the country. In regard of the schools whose teachers receive their salaries from the Israeli Ministry of Education, the relation with them is similar to the relation with the schools affiliated to the occupation municipality and Ministry of Education.

### The humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip in 2018:

You can hardly find a week in Gaza Strip in 2018 without a massacre of unarmed civilians on the eastern borders of the Strip. The one and only reason for such massacres is that they went out to demand the end of the blockade of Gaza Strip for more than 11 years. Israeli bullets do not differentiate between senior

citizens, pregnant women, young people, children and health and media workers. Media reports show that the Israeli army tended to cause direct casualties among civilians who did not pose any threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers. In terms of numbers, 2018 is the bloodiest year since



2014, which witnessed a full and brutal war on Gaza Strip.

The number of Palestinian martyrs in Gaza Strip was as high as 238, including 57 children and 6 women in early 2018. Meanwhile, the number of wounded was as high as 21 thousands, including 4,300 children and 9501 women. Perhaps the large number of martyrs this year in Gaza Strip is due to Israel's use of excessive force to peaceful marches demanding the return of Palestinians to their homeland. These marches went to the borders of the besieged Gaza Strip rejecting the American announcement that the city of Jerusalem is the capital of the occupation state. The bloodiest is the march on the anniversary of the Palestinian calamity, where the occupation forces shot down 58 and wounded 2771 citizens, to add this massacre to their record of the series of massacres committed in the Palestinian territories.

Gaza Strip was attacked on 10 November for a week of, as the Israeli jet fighters launched dozens of raids after units of Israeli Special Forces invaded Gaza, but they were soon exposed. The bombardment killed 8 Palestinians while a large number of buildings, houses and sites of the resistance were destroyed, including Al-Aqsa TV station headquarters. The Ministry of Public Works and Housing confirmed that the initial estimates of the Israeli aggression after field visits amounted to the total destruction of 80 housing units, partial major damages to 50 housing units, partial minor damages to 750 buildings, and that 80% if the damages occurred in the city of Gaza.

In 2018, 299 attacks were carried out in the maritime areas of Gaza Strip, which caused damages to fishing properties and equipment. This included 270 shooting incidents, detention of 59 fishermen including 4 children, the killing of 5 citizens, injury of 173, damaging 6 fishing boats, and ruining fishing nets owned by Palestinian fishermen. Estimates also point out that 99% of the fishermen live under the extreme poverty line, while the Israeli navy exercises systematic devastating procedures against them, such as the eleven years of suffocating naval siege on the fishermen and limiting the fishing distance by six miles, which led to the destruction of the fishing sector.

The Israeli occupation forces went to the extreme and continued to tighten their siege on Gaza Strip for the eleventh year in a row, and imposed more measures on the population, while continued to impose severe restrictions on the commercial crossings and mobility of individuals. There was no structural change in the siege procedures in 2018, as the alleged facilities declared by the occupation authorities did not touch the essence of the restrictions on the freedom of movement of individuals and goods.

In terms of the living conditions of the Palestinians in Gaza Strip, 2018 witnessed an increase in unemployment rates, which reached 53.7% compared to 46.6% in the year before. The number of the unemployed in Gaza Strip exceeds 283 thousands, and therefore Gaza Strip has the highest unemployment rate in the world. Unemployment rates among youth and graduates in Gaza Strip have risen to more than 50%, while the number of workers in the local market decreased by 19,100 workers in the first and second quarters of 2018. About 1.3 million people in Gaza, i.e., 68% of the population, are food insecure in 2018 compared to 59% in 2014, when a similar survey was conducted.

More than half of the population in Gaza Strip are afflicted by poverty rates, which were as high as 53.0%, which means that the poverty rate is 4 times higher than that in the West Bank. The percentage of people living below the extreme poverty line reached 33.8%, which is 6 times higher than the rate in the West Bank.

In the same context, the number of people receiving relief assistance from UNRWA and international relief organizations exceeded one million, representing up to 60% of Gaza Strip population. The percentage of food insecurity exceeded 72% among families in Gaza Strip. GDP per capita in Gaza Strip was \$ 425.3 during the second quarter of 2018, recording a decline of 8.9% compared to the second quarter of 2017.

Although 4 years passed since the end of the aggression of the summer of 2014, Gaza Strip is still suffering the worst economic and living conditions in recent history. According to estimates, the direct and indirect losses of the Palestinian split and the subsequent siege and wars exceeded 15 billion dollars. Hundreds of families are still suffering from the lack of reconstruction of their homes destroyed during the Israeli aggression of 2014. These families live in harsh conditions and without proper shelter for the fourth year in a row, as they are unable to pay the rent of temporary housing units. Their living conditions deteriorated, as a part of the deterioration of the economic conditions in Gaza Strip. They also suffer from their inability to adapt to temporary housing units, which are inadequate as they offer low basic services, especially education or health care facilities. According to data from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the proportion of reconstructed residential units affected by the hostilities was 59.8%, as 10,272 housing units were reconstructed, out of 171,000. According to the same statistics, the proportion of reconstructed homes was 69.7%, as 7666 homes were constructed, out of 11,000.

On the other hand, the deterioration in the environment in Gaza Strip continues for the second year in a row due to the continued inflow of untreated or partially treated sewage to the shores of Gaza, and subsequently the leakage to the groundwater reservoir. This is particularly alrming in view of the danger of high pollution and its effects on public health. The results published by the Environmental Quality Authority indicate that the pollution rate reached 75% along the coast of Gaza Strip, which is 40 kilometers long, so that the only vent for swimming becomes unsafe, prompting the Environmental Quality Authority to warn the holidaymakers and ban swimming except in three areas to avoid health complications. The acute and growing shortage of electric power is one of the main factors for this environmental catastrophe, as the hours of cutting power are more than 16 hours a day, which paralyzed all vital facilities. This affects all sectors, including the services sector, as lack of fuel affects pumping out sewage. A human rights organization in Gaza Strip recorded the death of 32 citizens, including 25 children, and one woman, while 36 others were injured, including 20 children and 6 women, the period from 2010 to 2018 due to fire incidents caused by using candles for light or explosion of domestic generators due to power outages in Gaza Strip.

In education, Gaza Strip faces significant challenges due to the huge lack of schools and the pressure resulting from inability to absorb the natural annual increase in the number of students. According to the latest statistics, the population of Gaza Strip is 1.94 million, making it the most populous place in the world as the population density is 5324 individuals per square kilometer. The data indicate that the Palestinian society in Gaza Strip is a young society, as the percentage of classroom density in public schools is 37.6% students per classroom, while the density in UNRWA schools reached 39.9 students per classroom. This forced education officials in Gaza Strip to adopt the two-shift system to contain student increases and pressures on the education facilities.

Schools in Gaza are overcrowded, as 70% of UNRWA schools and 63% of the schools run by the Ministry of Education work in two shifts. This reduces the number of teaching hours in basic subjects and foundation learning. This leads to problems in concentration and increases levels of violence in schools. In addition to overcrowded classrooms, there is a limited time available to enhance learning, support slow learners, and implement remedial education programs or extracurricular activities.

As a result, education in Gaza Strip is almost the most exposed sector to the siege imposed 11 years ago. More than 450,000 students and teachers in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools are considered "persons in need." In addition, about 50% of students (7 to 15 years old) do not achieve their full educational potentials in the sense that the psychological effects of the hostilities have led to a decline in educational outcomes and difficulties in reading and writing.

According to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, there is a need to build 86 new schools and add 1081 classrooms to the existing school buildings by 2021 to create a safe and appropriate learning environment. The Ministry announced at the end of April 2018 that it will build 100 new schools affiliated

to the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and will improve the system of kindergartens, which serves 66150 children in 683 kindergartens, because at this time, only 30% of young children (3-6 years) are enrolled in the licensed kindergartens in Gaza. Thusm several people neglect this critical stage of education.

Finally, in the area of healthcare, recent statistics indicate that due to the severe shortage of hospital beds in Gaza Strip, hospitals are no longer able to absorb effectively sick cases. The number of citizens per bed is as high as 1000 per hospital bed in Gaza Strip. Further, the Israeli authorities prevented the travel of 6401 patients who were referred to hospitals in Jerusalem and the West Bank. The frequency of rejection of patients' requests for treatment increased under the pretext of availability of treatment in Gaza Strip.

Adding insult to injury, the hospitals in the Gaza Strip suffer from the shortage of 44 essential drugs for cancer and blood patients. The lack of medicine stopped, almost completely, the health care services provided for cancer patients, especially since most cancer and blood diseases need several types of medications for a proper treatment. Therefore, the absence of any item may stop the application of the therapeutic protocol. In addition, there are 100 out of 143 drug items unavailable, making the percentage of the deficit as high as 70%. Sixteen other items are also about to run out over the next three months.

### Judaization of the Jordan Valley and area 'C' and inside the Wall

The Israeli occupation authorities have implemented a policy of isolating and judaizing the Jordan Valley area and the areas inside the Separation Wall, which cuts off about 10% of the West Bank and holds 350,000 Palestinians behind it. Dozens of measures support this through pursuing citizens, confiscating their lands, and attacking and destroying their properties. Occupation authorities continue blocking any project in Area C which makes up more than 60% of the West Bank, and continue setting up dozens of roadblocks and checkpoints to block mobility and communication between Palestinian areas. This resulted in annual losses estimated at billions of dollars, as these areas are the most fertile and has plenty of natural resources and water sources. It is not possible to make development without investing in these areas. The policy of preventing construction and infrastructure, depriving citizens of access to basic services such as water, electricity, housing, health and education, and the continued

confiscation of resources (Israel extracts 80% of the water resources), allowed Israel to control other resources such as land, natural gas, oil, minerals, and quarries, among others. At the same time, Israel unleashed the settlers' extremists allowing them to do what they wish in these areas, and provided them with military and financial support as well as the infrastructure to set up settlements.

According to a World Bank report, the total value of losses incurred by the Palestinian economy due to the lack of access to Area C is estimated at US \$ 3.4 billion. Certain sectors are believed to be most affected by the continued Israeli control of Area C, as most of the land classified as C are suitable for agricultural production in the West Bank, in addition to the largest proportion of total water resources. Therefore, access to C area could contribute an additional \$ 700 million per year, an added value for the Palestinian economy, i.e., the equivalent of 7% of the gross domestic product. Procedures of the Israeli occupation forces and settlers also closed 15,000 acres in the Jordan Valley and threatened thousands of farmers with expulsion.

### **Violations against Palestinian workers**

Since Israel completed its expansion occupation project based on building their state on the ruins of the Palestinian state in 1967, Israel has stepped up its actions aimed at emptying the land of its original inhabitants by restricting all aspects of their lives, hoping to force them to leave their lands, but it failed. Israel exploited the Palestinians and tempted them to work, giving them an opportunity to get rid of the economic hurdles they had set up before them, which limit their ability to rebuild their land. This made the Palestinians on the one hand neglect their land, and on the other hand provided the economy cheap labor with no rights.

Violations of the basic rights of Palestinian workers continued until 1970, when the Israeli government issued a decision to equalize Palestinian workers with their Israeli counterparts in terms of rights and duties. This decision created a glimmer of hope for Palestinian workers who thought that they would be treated as equals to Israeli workers, but this has never happened. Though Palestinian workers have been given some rights, they have been deprived of others, under a number of groundless pretexts, such as they are not residing in Israel and thus they are not entitled to all rights such as unemployment compensation.

Israel is still one of the biggest employers of Palestinian worker, as a number of studies conducted by some Palestinian, foreign and Israeli research institutions

have estimated the number of Palestinian workers in the Israeli labor market since 1970 to the end of 2018 at 4 million. This is a large number, compared to the Palestinian population, but it is the result of Israeli practices to continue their control of the Palestinian territories, natural resources, and borders. This weakened the Palestinian economy and caused its continued dependence on the Israeli economy. The situation continued to exist even after the rise of the Palestinian Authority in 1994, and adopting some projects to reduce unemployment. However, these efforts have always been faced by the Israeli practices that weaken the impact of these plans. The rate of unemployment in the Palestinian territories reached record levels, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, reaching 31.7% at the end of the third quarter of 2018.

Numerous studies and reports of ILO fact-finding committees document the Israeli violations of Palestinian workers' rights that have taken several forms. However, no practical measures have been taken to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian worker who finds no alternative but to work in the Israeli labor market due to lack of opportunities in the Palestinian labor market, under the impact of the Israeli arbitrary measures. These measures can be summarized in four main points:

### **I. Work Permits**

The number of work permits granted to Palestinian workers reached 90,000 at the end of 2018, while the Israeli authorities have not found any solutions to the problem of 60,000 Palestinian workers working in the Israeli labor market illegally, which negatively affects the rights of these workers. The reason for this problem is that



Israel unilaterally controls the process of granting permits, based on unfair and non-objective criteria, which do not comply with international standards. This also contradicts with the bilateral agreements signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, especially Paris Economic Protocol that makes the Palestinian Ministry of Labor a party to sort out the process of Palestinian workers in the Israeli labor market. We note here that Israel continues blocking the issuance of work permits for Gaza Palestinian workers since 2007 until today. These Israeli measures make Palestinian workers vulnerable to permit brokers who sell permits on the black market with large amounts of money (NIS 2,500 to 3,000 shekels a month), while the Israeli authorities are fully aware of this.

### **II.** Crossings

The increase in work permits granted by the Israeli authorities in the past year has not been accompanied by any changes, improvements or expansions at the crossings through which workers pass to their workplaces, causing heavy congestions at the crossings.



Conditions at the crossings are inappropriate as the Palestinian workers are humiliated. These measures exist in spite of repeated Israeli pledges to many local and international bodies to take the necessary measures to facilitate the passage of Palestinians while going to and returning from their work places.

In addition to this problem, the Israeli government coordinator's decision in the West Bank to allow Palestinians over the age of 55 to pass through checkpoints without entry permits, which means abolishing the social rights of these workers. Yet, this generated another problem as the Israeli authorities see these workers as illegal workers, depriving them of their labor rights. There are many documented examples of Palestinian workers who were injured or lost their lives while carrying out their work and the Israeli authorities did not recognize any of their rights.

### **III.** Occupational safety and health requirements

During the past year, the number of work injuries and deaths among Palestinian workers has increased, especially in the construction sector.

In 2018, there were 318 work accidents among the Palestinian workers inside the Green Line, while the number of deaths reached 25. Total deaths and injuries represent a 40% increase compared to 2017. The high rates of injuries among Palestinian workers are duo to the Israeli authorities' disregard of this issue. Most of injuries affect Palestinian workers and not their Israeli counterparts. It is unreasonable that 21 dedicated labor inspectors inspect 13.000 facilities and

workshops; therefore, there is a possibility of a normal inspection visit to the workshop once every two and a half years to three years.

### **IV. Financial Rights:**

In light of the difficult economic conditions, the budget crisis of the Palestinian Authority, and the restrictions imposed by the occupation, work in Israel and settlements is a major option for thousands of Palestinian workers. As their numbers increase and the amounts of deductions from their wages rise, it becomes urgent to pursue and recover these rights in accordance with Article VII of the Economic Protocol, which obliges the Israeli authorities to transfer these funds to the Palestinian government and the Palestinian Social Security Institution. The Israeli authorities are still holding billions of Shekels that are the rights of Palestinian workers. Even after the establishment of the Israeli Social Security Institution at the end of the year, the Israeli authorities still refuse to disclose the value of these sums or even their entitlements.

Furthermore, the Israeli authorities continue to hold the financial rights of Palestinian workers and rfuse to disclose them. On 1/1/2019, the Israeli Payments Department stopped the collection of sick leave fees from Israeli employers, and stopped collecting the annual leave fees from 1/1/2017, and the same applies to the recovery allowance for the benefit of Palestinian workers, which constitutes a further violation of the rights of Palestinian workers.

### The most prominent Israeli violations include:

1. Israel's disregard of the results and recommendations in the reports of the International Labor Organization, the Arab Labor Organization, and other local, regional and international human rights organizations.

2. The Israeli side avoids adherence to international conventions and standards of employment and the means to deal with Palestinian workers.

3. The Israeli side delays enacting the Joint Economic Committee of the Paris Economic Protocol.

4. The Israeli authorities do not take measures to facilitate the crossing of Palestinian workers except through Israeli checkpoints, or to expand the checkpoints and facilitate the procedures.

5. The Israeli authorities deny the obligation to put in place a joint mechanism with the Palestinian Ministry of Labor on the criteria for granting work permits and distributing them to Palestinian workers

6. The Israeli side refuses to cooperate in providing real and accurate information about the financial rights of Palestinian workers, and refuses to undertake to transfer them to the competent Palestinian authorities.

### **Conclusion:**

The occupation authorities and the settler gangs are consolidating their occupation of the Palestinian land through a series of policies and procedures under the cover of dozens of racist laws, regulations and decisions, which aim at emptying the Palestinian land, displacing its inhabitants, and setting up settlements on the Palestinian land for settler extremists. This aims at preventing the Palestinians from having a Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The policy of judaizing Jerusalem, changing its Arab character, and completely isolating it from its Arab environs, is the top priority of the occupation government. Judaizing Jerusalem is the first objective of confiscating land, demolishing buildings, dividing Al Aqsa mosque area, and building thousands of housing units for settlers. Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation authorities isolate the Palestinian side of the Jordan valley and completely control the inside of the Wall and the so-called "C" area. The Palestinian areas are divided into smaller areas through dozens of checkpoints, creating unconnected Palestinian enclaves that prevent access of thousands of Palestinians to educational and health facilities as well as their work areas. Further, the occupation continues to close Gaza Strip, making life there impossible, as there is no electricity, no drinking water, no food security, no work and investment, or even the possibility of exiting the Strip for study and/or treatment.

The occupation has destroyed the prospects of development, besieged the Palestinian economy, raised unemployment and poverty rates, restricted mobility of individuals and goods, and prevented investment, while the policies and procedures of the occupation are growing on a daily basis, using force against the will of the Palestinians who have the right. The Arab Palestinian people shall remain steadfast on their land and in a state of daily clashes with the occupier and its gangs until the dream comes true, the dream of freedom, independence, and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

### **References:**

- Palestine Liberation Organization Abdullah Al Hourani Center.
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- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

### **Section Two**

## Effects of Israeli Settlements on the Social and Economic Conditions and the Labor Sector in the Occupied Territories in Southern Lebanon

2018

- No doubt, the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories, namely Shebaa farms and Kafr Shuba hills, adversely affect the investment in these lands, which enjoy rich natural, geographical and water features. This affects the conditions of employers and work in those occupied areas.
- The area of Shebaa Farms area is 200 km (25 km long and 8 km wide), and it is rich with varied crops according to the climatic diversity. The Farms produce various kinds of grains, fruit trees, vegetables, legumes, perennial oak, mulberry, apricot and hawthorn trees, and pastures. The area is also rich



with historical monuments such as caves, wells and sarcophagi.

- The Israeli occupation of this area prevents owners of the land from investment in their property such as farming and harvesting crops, investment in olive presses and molasses presses, or setting up factories that provide opportunities for hand labor.
- The long period of the occupation did not allow the competent authority to prepare economic feasibility studies for investment in these lands through development projects: agricultural, industrial or tourist, which can be translated into figures and financial returns.
- Labor conditions in the south are directly and negatively affected by Israeli attacks and constant threats of invasions. This led to hamper growth, as factories and institutions are affected, employers and workers are in a state of constant anxiety, factories are disrupted and their productivity is affected. The area continues to suffer from occupation, mines and cluster bombs estimated at two million bombs that are banned internationally. There are several types of bombs spread over large areas in the south, and these bombs unfortunately kill dozens of civilians and farmers annually, while they also ruin thousands of acres of agricultural land, and therefore negatively affect the agricultural sector in the area.

### The labor situation is summarized as follows:

Workers in the border area account for 29% of the total resident population, with an average age of 39 years, and in some areas, it rises to 43 years.

Workers who have elementary education or below account for 42% of the total actual workforce. The low level of education is due to the increase of dropout during the period of occupation, as well as the compulsory conscription, which was attended by the majority of young people in the region. University graduates represent 11% of the total number of workers, while professionals represent 8%.

It is noted that 73 of illiterate workers are relatives to their employers, whereas the percentage fall to 28% among those who are university graduates.

In terms of employment per sector, we find that:

- The private sector absorbs 46% of the workforce.
- The informal sector absorbs 36% of the workforce.
- The public sector absorbs 17% of the workforce.
- The mixed sector (private and public capital) absorbs 0.3% of the workforce.

### Workers in the private sector:

Farmers and skilled workers in fishing and agriculture account for 25%.

- 17% are workers in offices and economic and private establishments.
- 9% drivers of transport means and machinery.
- 8% artisans and miners.

### Workers in the public sector:

- 39% teachers.
- 15% military.
- 12% workers in indirect services.
- 9% employees in public administrations and municipalities.

### Workers in the informal sector:

- 28% craftsmen and construction workers.
- 15% farmers and skilled workers in agriculture and fishing.
- 13% workers at offices of economic establishments.
- 8% drivers of transport means and machinery.

Five percent of the actual workforce are owners of craftsmen institutions and workshops employing less than 10 people, 4% are tenants and 5% are family members assisting their kins and families in agricultural work.

### Work permanence:

Fifty five percent of the workforce are full time workers, whereas those who have seasonal or part time employment account for 41% of all workers. This percentage is the basis for seasonal unemployment in this region. The number of working hours per week is about 41 hours,

The lowest incomes are those belonging to the youth age group of 29 years and below. The average monthly income of full-time workers in this age group ranges from US \$ 120 to US \$ 230 per month.

### **Unemployment:**

Unemployment rate is 10.4% to 15.5%, depending on the activities and work in each region, and the figure changes according to the tension level.

Unemployment rates for women are about 20%.

The causes of unemployment in this region are:

- 1. The tense security situation.
- 2. Layoff.
- 3. Closure of institutions for poor economic conditions.
- 4. Conflict with employers.
- 5. Difficult and indecent working conditions.
- 6. Low wages.
- 7. Health and family reasons.

Difficult living conditions, the lack of normal life in villages and the lack of adequate infrastructure for work have a parallel impact on both employers and workers. The most significant problems in the region are:

- Difficulty of mobility between villages due to the lack of transportation means and poor conditions of roads.
- Almost permanent interruption of water.
- Problems in electricity.
- Lack of marketing the agricultural products, especially olive oil.

- Lack of agricultural roads.
- Lack of screening the lands to determine ownership of private properties.
- Low level of the public school.
- Lack of hospitals, dispensaries and doctors' clinics.

In addition to what is mentioned in the introduction, constant fear of Israeli attacks is a major reason that disrupts life in the occupied border areas,

### **Section Three**

## Effects of Israeli Settlements on the Social and Economic Conditions and the Labor Sector in the Occupied Syrian Arab Golan

2018

Despite the denunciation campaigns for the events in the Syrian Arab territories, Israel defies the international community by violating all resolutions issued by international organizations and its affiliated bodies.

In view of the available information and data, we discuss in this section the situation of the Syrian Arab workers, employers and citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan in 2018, pointing out to the arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in spite of the difficult current and serious situation in Syria as a whole. This can be summarized as follows:

### A. The political context: The reality of the occupation and the prospects of the peace process

Israeli practices affecting human rights in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan from May 2015 to date:

The Israeli practices have always been characterized by absolute hostility as they are arbitrary racist practices carried out by the occupation authorities against the people of the Syrian Arab Golan occupied since 1967, in a way that contradicts with international laws. These practices are seen as a flagrant violation of the rules of international humanitarian law, represented by Geneva 4 convenventions signed on 12 August 1949, the Hague Convention of 1907, the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, various international resolutions, declarations, charters, and conventions, especially the charter the International Labor Organization, the Declaration of Philadelphia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relating to the protection of the civilian population in the occupied territories, and the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant.

Each time, the international community calls on Israel to stop changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the Syrian Golan, and to cease setting up settlements and imposing Israeli nationality on Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan.

# **B.** Israeli practices against workers, employers and other Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan:

Since the first day of the occupation in 1967, the Israeli Zionist entity has exercised an arbitrary oppressive policy against workers. This is not only the case with the labor sector, but also the case with all other social sectors.

The Israeli Zionist authorities in the occupied Syrian Golan stood against Syrian workers who work in factories and construction works through the chair and members of the suspicious local councils, appointed by the authorities in each village, especially those who resist the occupation, unlike those who cooperate with the authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity and its institutions.

### This aggressive policy includes several areas such as:

### **1. Culture and Education:**

- The Israeli Zionist authorities destroy the monuments in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to falsify archaeological and historical facts in an attempt to obliterate the Arab identity of the occupied Golan and subsequently Judaize it.
- The Israeli Zionist authorities imposed Israeli educational curricula, imposed education in Hebrew, and forced students to learn the subjects of 'Israeli civil studies and the Druze heritage', which have no connection to the history, and civilization of the Arab people. This aims to sever ties to Arabism and Islam, while encouraging sectarianism and national oppression to prostrate the national character of our people in the Golan and to expand Israel's aggressive policy.
- The Israeli Zionist authorities deliberately appoint teachers who are not qualified to implement its educational policy, while refusing to accept the appointment of qualified teachers from Syrian university graduates who are academically qualified.
- The Israeli Zionist authorities terminate contracts of Syrian Arab teachers who teach Arab history and Arabic literature to raise the national feeling in the hearts of students. This aims to control the educational process and affect the national affiliation to the motherland Syria.

• The Israeli Zionist authorities obstruct sending the students of the occupied Syrian Golan to the motherland to pursue their university studies, while putting obstacles in front of those who graduated from the university in the motherland if they decided to return to their villages to work in the domains they studied and graduated from.

### **II.** Connection with the motherland:

Israeli authorities annoy Syrian Arab citizens to isolate them from their Arab environs and disrupt their belonging to their mother country Syria through the following practices:

- The Israeli Zionist authorities are carrying out various practices against workers, peasants and doctors, preventing them from going to the motherland to participate in trade union and scientific conferences.
- Israeli authorities prevent those who married from the people of the occupied Golan and who studied at homeland Syria from returning to their villages in the occupied Golan. Authorities also prevent women married in the occupied Golan from visiting their parents in the motherland.
- Nationals from the occupied Golan who have already visited the motherland are subject to trial on charges of "visiting an enemy state".
- Israeli authorities prevent the people of the occupied Syrian Golan from crossing into and from the motherland via the Quneitra crossing, as the Israeli Zionist entity gives full support to armed terrorist gangs to control the Quneitra crossing.

### **III. Health care:**

The occupied five Arab villages suffer from a severe shortage in health centers and clinics, as there is no hospital to serve the people of these villages. For a simple operation, the patient needs to go to cities like Nazareth, Safed or Jerusalem, which costs a lot. Sufferings continue due to lack of first aid centres, doctors and specialized medical clinics, though people of the occupied Golan pay taxes of patient fund, and tax for hospital and health centers that do not exist. Authorities put obstacles to open laboratories and medical clinics to make a connection between Syrian citizens and the occupied Palestine to defeat their steadfastness.

### **IV. Prisoners and detainees:**

- The Israeli Zionist authorities arrest citizens in the occupied Golan on incorrect charges and under various pretexts such as: (non-compliance to instructions refusal to participate in a demonstration against the Syrian regime giving information to a hostile state contact with agents ... etc).
- The Israeli Zionist authorities are conducting medical experiments on Arab detainees, considering them terrorists and criminals, not prisoners. Israeli military intelligence practices the worst forms of physical and psychological torture against the prisoners and detainees from the occupied Golan to force them to confess what they did not commit. One of the tactics used for torture is injecting viruses into the bodies of prisoners. This may lead to death or incurable diseases and permanent disabilities. In addition, Israeli Zionist authotities impose obstacles on the families of prisoners when they visit their relatives in Israeli prisons, far from their residence places.

### V. Minefields and dumping nuclear waste in the occupied Golan:

- The Israeli Zionist authorities continue to lay new mines and revive the existing minefields in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. The number of mines ranges from 2 to 3 million mines, which claimed the lives of many innocent citizens in the occupied Golan. The number of mine casualties in the occupied Golan has been '532', as 202 of them were killed and 329 suffer from permanent disability, most of them are children. Recently, the Israeli Zionist authorities produce mobile mines that can move through wind and rain, and another type of mines that is controlled remotely. This aims at terrifying the Syrian Arab population to force them to leave their villages and lands for the settlers and the occupation forces.
- The Israeli Zionist forces buried large quantities of nuclear waste in 20 locations on the occupied Golan, such as Nashbat Almuqbila, Qasr Shabib, and Birkat Marj Al Mann, among others. In the cease-fire line in the occupied Golan, the authorities added nuclear tactical mines, rich in radioactive materials and ready to explode, known as (castles of David), This resulted in the spread of cancer among the population there due to the emissions from buried nuclear waste.
- Soil analyses in the occupied Golan villages confirmed that they contain high percentages of atomic radiation and other radioactive materials used by Israel as fertilizer. This leads to the leakage of this pollutant into the groundwater to poison the Syrian Arab citizens there.

### VI. Exploiting the traeasures of the Golan Heights:

- The total average return of the Israeli industry in the occupied Syrian Golan is approximately \$8 million, while the return of agriculture is over \$ 1 billion annually. Return of tourism is similar to agriculture, as the Golan receives more than 2 million visitors a year, who go to sports centers and Skiing centers in the foothills of Mount Hermon, sulfur pools, dozens of restaurants and hotels, including the huge Thai restaurant. Tourist attractions also include the American Crocodile Park, Howard and Johnson hotels, the Golan cheese factories in Katzrin and the facilities of Core and Tel Dor, and Eden Springs Mineral Water. In addition, there are scores of industrial centers and workshops that produce hi-tech, plastic, chemical & food products, cement, steel, petroleum products, as well as metal and military products. There are also fruit and olive presses, industrial and agricultural technology centers, wood and bottled water factories, mills, textiles, paper industries, cattle farms, potato and fruits farms, among others. This attracts tourists to the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.
- The Israeli Ministry of Energy and Water exploited the crisis in Syria and resumed the process of exploration for oil, minerals, gas and monuments in lands belonging to the Syrian citizens who were expelled from their villages when Israeli Zionist authorities falsified possession documents making these lands owned by Jews before the occupation. Machineries of Jenny Energy Company, owned by the former Israeli Minister of Infrastructure (Avi Eitam) started drilling for exploration, as Eitam stated that Israel needs approximately 300 thousand barrels of oil every day, and therefore his company shall work to secure a portion of this requirement from the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.
- Authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity tend to set up plants to generate electricity by investing the continuous wind movement in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. This includes establishing and expanding a project of field of wind turbines on the territory of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.
- The economy of the villages of the Golan is linked to the Israeli economy, attempting to make it completely dependent on the Israeli companies.

### C. Proportion and types of taxes and rebates imposed by occupation authorities on ordinary Syrian Arab workers and agricultural workers:

Israeli Zionist authorities pursue a tax policy that Syrian Arabs in the occupied Golan cannot afford to bear, as the authorities impose a work tax on Syrian workers ranging from seven to 35 percent of the daily work or permanent job income, without exempting them from the so-called income tax, which amounts to approximately 25 percent of their net income. This brings the tax rate on the labor force to about 55 percent of the general output. The authorities also impose a tax of 30 percent on contractors, while imposing a tax estimated according to the profits on refrigerators and apple sales outlets. This prompts Syrian workers to work according to what is known as extra work-hours system for three continuous hours, whereas their Jewish counterparts work for six and a half hours a day, without imposing the previously mentioned taxes on them. This is deemed as a blatant theft for the money of Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. However, percentages of taxes are not standard, as the authorities may allow Syrian citizens to start factories for light industries such as household items, detergents, soap, and other agricultural business, but they levy heavy taxes on them.

The Israeli occupation authorities set limits to the Arab villages, as recently the authorities made an organizational border for each and every village, preventing building outside the border. Yet constructions permits are given only through the local council, appointed by the authorities, and after paying exorbitant fees and taxes for each license.

The Israeli Zionist authorities sell real estate and properties belonging to Syrian citizens who fled or were expelled from their villages such as the villages of (Jubata ez-Zeit - Banias – Zaa-ourh - Ain Vit - Wasit), promising those who would respond to this offer to have building permits, loans, and best services. The main objective of this is to create differences between them and their neighbors who shall return, inevitably, to their homes and properties when the time comes for the colonized entity to leave.

It is worth mentioning that all types of taxes are present in the general tax law, but it has an extra 25 percent rate, as the Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, particularly workers, are not covered by the so-called mandatory service for the Israeli citizens. Meanwhile, aids from the global and domestic financial funds for what Israel calls (residents of border areas) do not include the people of the occupied Golan. As a result, the gap between the income of a Jewish settler and a Syrian Arab citizen becomes wider as it goes beyond seventy percent, taking into account that the Jewish settler is exempted from taxes, and a settler does not perform the same work like a Syrian citizen in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.

## **D.** Social insurance, compensations, and sick leaves for an Arab worker compared to an Israeli worker:

Israeli Zionist authorities refuse to pay compensations for workers who suffer permanent or temporary injuries and those who need special health care due to being hit by an injury while working, under the pretext that they are not covered by the law of compensation, arguing that they had received medical treatment in private clinics owned by doctors from the Golan who graduated from Syrian universities

### E. Works allowed for Syrian Arab workers in the occupied Golan:

In accordance with the applicable Israeli actions regarding Syrian Arab workers, these workers are classified as Third Class Workers, after Jewish then foreign workers. This racial classification allowed the authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity and different employers to exploit the Syrian labor force to work in jobs that Jewish or foreign workers refuse to take, or even cannot perform. Most of these jobs are classified in Israel as dirty or tough jobs. This Jewish and racist term describes the jobs dedicated to the Arab minority. These jobs include, but not limited to:

- 1- Iron works like porting, manufacturing and installation especially in workshops and dangerous facilities and projects.
- 2- Earthwork, manual chopping and transport of rocks where machineries cannot be used.
- 3- Working in dying, paints and industrial oils facilities, and in textile factories that mostly cause cancer.
- 4- Working in the military fortifications near the mine fields, where there are repeated explosions that cause death to Syrian workers.
- 5- Working in constructions, especially in the Israeli settlements, in all professions such as electricity works, blacksmithing, carpentry, tiles and painting, among others.

6- Mechanic and machinery works.

### F. Land & water confiscation and restrictions on agricultural production:

Policies of sprawling annexation as well as land and natural resources confiscation continue for the sake of occupiers in the occupied Golan. Israeli exploitation of the occupied land in the Syrian Golan comes in parallel with confiscation of land and water resources, which is a repetition to what the occupation authorities have done to most of the land in the Golan in recent years. It is worth noting that these lands are agricultural land, which was cultivated by Arab Syrian citizens before 1967.

# Occupation authorities adopt several means for confiscation, including the following:

- Confiscation of the lands of displaced citizens, deeming the land is a property of the state on grounds that the land owners are absent, and also the public land that is owned by everyone, such as the public land in Meseada village,
- Confiscation of lands close to ceasefire line, and mining it,
- Confiscation of land for military purposes, such as erecting military camps and military sites, as well as building routes in lands far from the ceasefire line,
- Confiscation of land to build settlements and agricultural and industrial utilities,
- Fencing many lands on the grounds that they would be put under the protection of Nature Protection Authority (total area of such lands are estimated as 100 thousand acres),
- Israeli occupation forces continue building up their machineries to the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, close to the ceasefire line, with the aim of grazing the soil, and subsequently transferring it to the occupied Palestine, and also pulling out the trees in the area between the wired fence and the ceasefire line, and
- In regard of water resources, policies of the occupation authorities continue to work on depriving Syrian citizens in the occupied villages of using the available water resources in these villages. The authorities ban them to use the water of Meseada Lake, and meanwhile the Israeli authorities changed the path of the lake's water to the Israeli settlements

in the Golan. As the authorities ban the citizens from digging artesian water wells and building tanks to store rain and snow, Israeli authorities dig several water wells for settlements, which led to the lowering of groundwater table.

The Israeli Zionist authorities tend to reduce apple prices and levy very expensive charges for the transportation and marketing of this crop, and seek to block the process of taking this crop to the mainland Syria to make more pressures on farmers and harm them. It is worth mentioning that apple crop is the basic and strategic product in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.

## G. Total number of Israeli settlements and the number of settlements that were established or expanded recently on the occupied Arab Syrian Golan:

The feverous Zionist Judaization and settlements campaigns in all the occupied Arab territories coincide with the efforts of occupation authorities to implement a settlement scheme that aims at encouraging and consecrating the Jewish settlement in the occupied Syrian territories in the next three years. Meanwhile, Israel is planning to build nine new settlements, in addition to the already existing 32 settlements (which are recorded at the Israeli Interior Ministry), and consequently resettle 200 Jewish families every year in the occupied Golan.

What is investigated today is how to increase the number of settlers in the occupied Golan to 50 thousand on the short term, and duly remove all obstacles to achieve this.

Four years ago, and within the framework of boosting the plan of 'Jewish Settlement' in the occupied Golan, occupation authorities had announced the start of settlement expansion on new lands with a total area of 80 acres in al-Batiha area southern of the occupied Golan. This area is located near the Jordanian-Syrian-Palestinian borders, to build a new tourist village in Tel al-Sayadeen area on the eastern coast of Tiberius Lake in the area known as el-Korsi in the occupied Syrian territories.

The undeserved Zionist settlement campaign currently witnesses a considerable unprecedented momentum in construction, where recent records show a percentage of more than 400% increase in buying settlement apartments in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan Heights. In total, the unfair judaization operations in the occupied Golan reached the limit by establishing 46 settlement sites, either as a settlement, a project for a settlement, or a colonial site like Nahal settlements, agricultural and industrial collective Alkibotz settlements, cooperative Moshav settlements, or religious people settlements.

Information indicate that the Israeli occupation government in a meeting on a five-year settlement plan to develop large areas of unused agricultural lands in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights approved that such lands would be allocated to the Jewish farmers in the region. Occupation authorities seek, through adopting this settlement plan, to develop agriculture in the Golan, as the four coming years would witness the inauguration of 750 new agricultural settlement facility, and the Israeli authorities would spend about 400 million Shekels (115 million US dollars) on implementing the proposed plan, which includes extension of water networks and demining. A Hebrew website said that within the framework of this plan, 30 thousand acres would be prepared for agriculture near the current settlement centers in the occupied Golan Heights, while clearing several mine fields which spread in an area of 10 thousand acres. This expansion shall be utilized to create new job opportunities for settlers, and shall encourage both agricultural and tourist activities.

The website quoted Eli Malka, the chairman of the Golan Regional Council, as saying that this plan would allow them to receive hundreds of new Jewish families of young generations, who would form the second generation of the Israeli settlement scheme in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan.

### H. The percentage of Arab Syrian child labor in the occupied Golan:

Israeli Zionist occupation authorities in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan exert enormous efforts to use child labor for two main reasons:

- a) Cheap child labor wages, and
- b) Disconnecting the children from their society and attempting to merge them in the cheap labor market as they are still young to continue the Israeli scheme of inclusion and Judaization. Therefore, and based on statistical data collected by some concerned people in the occupied Golan, the percentage of child labor below the age of 17 is more than 60% of the labor force.

This is definitely a major reason for dropouts from elementary and preparatory schools, as the dropout percentage exceeds 20%, and this spreads ignorance for several generations.

As a result, child labor has been an occupation weapon to spread ignorance of different Arab generations, and to cut their links with communities, and duly their mother land. Local statistics show that crime rates among those child-workers reached record highs, and this contributed to the spread of trade and use of drugs, ripping the community of its customs and traditions. The community has become hybrid, composed of a deeply-rooted civilization and a distorted and forged culture imposed by the facts of occupation and Judaization policies.

Nevertheless, it must be noted that Israeli occupation authorities ban child labor for the Jews, but this is not applied to Arab communities in general, and Golan community in particular.

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